

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Real Wealth

By Walter E. Myer

MR. X is a genial, friendly man. He has no major troubles and no especially vexing worries. He has a good job and has had his share of promotions. He has a fair income and a pleasant home. His friends consider him successful in his business and social life.

But despite the advantages he enjoys X is not at all happy. Though he has no serious troubles he has too little real enjoyment. He does not find much that is interesting in the days as they go by. Too few of his hours bring positive pleasure. Life, for him, is by no means a zestful experience. He is restless, dissatisfied and bored.

Mr. Y's income is no greater than X's. To his neighbors he seems no more fortunate or successful, but he possesses a form of wealth unknown to X, a wealth of interests. He has found satisfying forms of recreation. He is interested in politics, reads about public problems and understands what he reads. His studies give him a rich experience, for he understands both past and present and is able to fit the days' events into the mosaic of history.

Y has studied geology. He likes to wander over the countryside and to read in the rock formations a record of the ages. But his interests are not confined to the more serious facts of science or art. He follows the sport pages and enlivens otherwise boring minutes by noting what the home team is doing. Something is always happening to banish the tedium of the day and to spread before him a multitude of pleasures. He is unacquainted with the boredom which so seriously affects his neighbor.

The chief difference between X and Y is that Y is an educated man and X isn't. Both men "went through" high school and college, but one of them took advantage of his opportunities while the other didn't. Y made use of

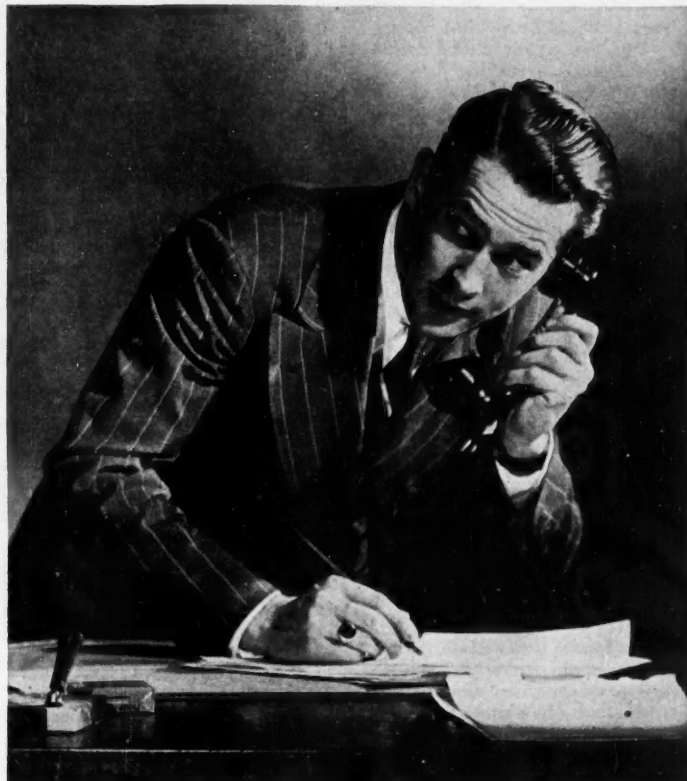
his studies, whereas X did not. Y continued, after the school years, to acquire an education, continued to enlarge his horizons and to broaden his interests, while X never learned the meaning and the possibilities of an education, either in school or in later life. To Y life is a rich, exciting experience; to X the passing days are too often filled with boredom.

In every classroom there are students who are becoming more like X every day of their lives. There are others who are traveling in the footsteps of Y.

The Y's make use of every subject which they study. They read history, biography, literature, science, not primarily to make good grades, but that they may add to their interests. They derive immediate satisfaction from the facts and ideas with which they may become familiar. They also come into the possession of capital for the future. They are acquiring a broad education. The students who belong to the Y class are insuring themselves against dullness and boredom, now and in the years to come.



Walter E. Myer



DO YOU THINK wire tapping is a good policy in tracking down criminals?

Wire-Tapping Issue

Spy Trials Raise Question About How Far Officers Should Go in Getting Evidence from Telephone Conversations

THE spy trial now going on in New York has started a controversy over the practice of wire tapping. In preliminary hearings it was disclosed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had tapped the telephone lines of Judith Coplon and Valentin Gubitchev, the defendants, and secretly listened in on conversations in order to help the government build up its case.

Since it is against the law to use evidence obtained from wire tapping in federal courts, it seemed for a time that the whole case might be thrown out. However, the government proved that it had obtained the same evidence through other means, and the trial was permitted to get underway. Miss Coplon, a former federal employee, and Gubitchev, a Russian once employed at United Nations headquarters, are charged with working together to turn over U. S. government documents to the Soviet Union.

No matter how the trial comes out, the debate about wire tapping is likely to go on for some time. As a number of newspapers have pointed out, the wire-tapping issue is an important one which may come up again and again. The question it raises is this: Should anyone be permitted to listen secretly to the telephone conversations of others?

Sharply conflicting answers are being given to this question. Before

discussing the issue, though, let's see how wire tapping is done, and examine some of the regulations that restrict the practice at present.

In the days when the telephone was comparatively new, wire tapping involved scraping the insulation off the line and attaching wires connected to a receiver. One was then able to eavesdrop on any conversation on that particular circuit.

Today wire tapping is even more simple. Through a device known as an induction coil, it is possible to tap a line without making contact with it. The coil may be placed beside the line, or it may even be on the other side of a wall from the line being tapped. The tapper can listen in himself, or he may have a recording machine attached to keep a complete record of everything that is said.

In 1934 the United States government passed a law forbidding unauthorized persons to tap wires and give out information so obtained. Despite this law, there has been a running controversy for a number of years over whether or not wire tapping is permissible under certain conditions.

The Department of Justice, at present, takes the view that a limited amount of wire tapping is permissible so long as the information obtained

(Concluded on page 2)

Finland Values Its Democracy

Recent Voting Plainly Shows This Little Nation to Be Against Communism

FINLAND once again has held a free, democratic election. The result was a new defeat for Russian communism, against which Finland has fought 3 wars in the past 33 years. The vote also was a slap at Russia's latest effort to put pressure on the 4 million, hard-working and freedom-loving Finns.

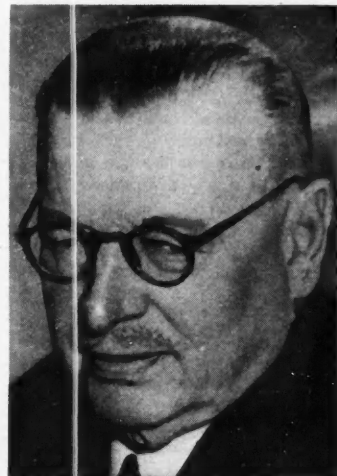
The election was held to choose a President for Finland. The voters named an electoral college of 300 persons, with each pledged to a candidate. Anti-Communist Juho Paasikivi, who is President now, won 172 electoral votes, or enough for re-election.

So, unless some very unexpected emergency arises, Paasikivi will be named President for 6 more years. (The electoral college votes on February 15.) Mr. Paasikivi represents a group of moderate and conservative parties. He is well known for his able dealings with the Russians.

Russia began a campaign of pressure against Finland several weeks before the election. The Moscow press warned Finland she was on a "dangerous" path that could lead to disaster. Moscow charged that Finland was hiding 300 Soviet "war criminals." This, said Moscow, violated Finnish pledges to Russia. Moscow demanded that she be given custody of the "war criminals."

From their own radio and press, the Finns knew all about the Russian demand. They saw it as an effort to create fear and swing the election to the Communist candidate. Russia had made such efforts many times before. But, as in the past, the Finns went to the polls, freely and independently

(Concluded on page 6)



PRESIDENT Juho Paasikivi, for many years a leader in Finland

Should the Police Be Allowed to Tap Wires?

(Concluded from page 1)

from wire tapping is not used as evidence in court. A number of Attorney Generals have defended the practice, and have declared that the law passed in 1934 was not intended to forbid wire tapping altogether.

Consequently, the FBI has on various occasions tapped wires in connection with criminal investigations. Through such a procedure, it is said that the "G-men" have sometimes been able to get valuable "leads" to help them dig up evidence from other sources—evidence that can be used in court.

Attorney General J. Howard McGrath recently disclosed that the FBI now taps 170 telephones in the United States and its possessions in connection with national security investigations.

Under the police powers reserved for them by the Constitution, many states have passed their own laws dealing with wire tapping. Most of these state laws are more explicit than the federal statute. For example, in

telephone was invented, it is widely held that the amendment puts definite restrictions on the practice of wire tapping. The amendment says:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against searches and seizures, shall not be violated."

In 1928 the Supreme Court held that the Fourth Amendment did not forbid wire tapping. However, the decision was by a 5 to 4 vote. If the matter should come up again, the Court might, or might not, reverse its decision.

As a result of the recent disclosure that the FBI had been tapping telephone lines, a number of prominent persons have spoken out sharply against the practice. Among them are James L. Fly, former head of the Federal Communications Commission, and Harold Ickes, former Secretary of the Interior.

The arguments advanced by critics of wire tapping may be summarized as follows:

"Wire tapping is a dirty, sneaky business. It violates the American concept of fair play. It calls for snooping into confidential matters, and completely does away with privacy. The old saying that 'a man's home is his castle' is no longer true—not if his telephone is tapped.

"Furthermore, the FBI is plainly going against the law passed in 1934 when it practices wire tapping. The fact that it may be dealing with law-breakers does not justify the FBI in breaking the law itself. When it does so, it is taking matters into its own hands and setting itself up as an organization above the law.

"If we knew that wire tapping was used only in connection with criminals, it might be less distasteful than at present, but the fact is that when police officials engage in this practice they encourage private citizens to do the same. Consequently in order to protect individual freedom and privacy, this undemocratic, underhanded form of snooping should be done away with altogether."

On the other hand, several well-known persons have spoken out in defense of the present policies that are being followed in regard to wire tapping. Among them are Attorney General J. Howard McGrath and J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI.

Here are the views generally advanced by those who favor the present wire-tapping practices:



J. EDGAR HOOVER, head of the FBI, argues that wire tapping is necessary in some situations



HAROLD ICKES, former Secretary of Interior, is critical of the FBI's use of wire tapping

New York it is possible for the police to tap a wire, providing they first get a court order. They must prove to the judge issuing the order that it is "reasonable" to believe that a crime has been committed.

Thus, in New York and some other states, the practice of wire tapping is believed to be fairly common. In getting information about gamblers, thieves, and other criminals, wire tapping is said to be widely used by the police.

It is also undoubtedly true that wire tapping is sometimes done by people other than the law enforcement officers. In these cases, it is usually a matter of unscrupulous individuals using the device to find information which is none of their business. For example, an unprincipled businessman might tap the line of a competitor, or an unscrupulous lawyer might listen in on the conversation of a lawyer opposing him in a particular suit.

Wire-tapping experts say that such cases are by no means farfetched. They point out that it is an easy matter to tap a line and that it is simple, indeed, to keep a 24-hour-a-day check on a particular line with modern recording equipment.

In discussing the laws dealing with wire tapping, one should not forget the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. Even though it went into effect more than 75 years before the



"WRONG NUMBER," says this cartoonist, who feels that wire tapping is undemocratic. The practice is defended by others as necessary to combat dangerous criminals.

"Wire tapping is often extremely valuable in tracking down criminals and 'getting the goods on them.' Sometimes a dangerous criminal can cover his tracks so well that it is practically impossible to get evidence of his guilt. Yet in conversation with friends by phone, he may let important information slip out that will help the police prove its case.

"It is not likely that even the most ardent critic of wire tapping would object to the practice if his own child were kidnaped and the child's whereabouts were not known. Certainly there is an equal need to be able to tap the phones of those who would spy against us in the United States.

"Wire tapping is not, to be sure, a nice business, but then neither is any other form of criminal detection. Certainly there is nothing so sanctified about a telephone conversation as to let a man plot treason, murder, kidnaping, and other crimes and then not to let the police use his own conversation as evidence against him. If the practice is kept within bounds, it should certainly be permissible."

Many people think that much of the controversy now taking place over wire tapping could be avoided if we had a law which permitted it in certain cases and clearly prohibited it in all other cases. Such a law, it is felt, might strike a balance between the needs of law-enforcement officers for methods of crime detection and the needs of U. S. citizens for protection against the abuses of wire tapping.

Whether a law could be drawn up to achieve this happy balance is debatable. However, a bill has been introduced in Congress which would permit wire tapping upon the written approval of the Attorney General. The procedure would be limited to cases involving treason, sabotage, spying,

and similar activities. Information so obtained could be used as evidence in federal courts.

Many people think that such a law would come into conflict with the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. That, however, will be a matter for the courts to decide, providing the bill is passed.

Egyptian Politics

Is Egypt about to enter an era of social and economic reform? The national elections held there recently brought into power that country's most reform-minded party, the Wafdists. Members of this party won 161 of the 319 seats in Egypt's Chamber of Deputies.

The Wafdists stand apart from the other major Egyptian political parties in their desire to curb the powers of King Farouk. Although Egypt is a constitutional monarchy, with a Senate and Chamber of Deputies, its king exercises considerable political power.

If the Wafdists have their way, democracy will be extended in Egypt. Certain leaders of the party are also seeking to put through badly needed economic reforms. Most of Egypt's wealth and political power are in the hands of a few well-to-do and powerful families. The majority of the people are desperately poor. About four-fifths of them cannot read or write.

Egypt's needs include a program to redistribute the farm land, new schools and health centers, and new industries so that the people will not have to depend so exclusively as now on farming for their living.

To what extent the Wafdists, now that they are in power, will work toward these ends is of vital interest to the masses of Egyptian people.

Science News

At the Navy's Ordnance Laboratory at White Oak, Maryland, an echo-less room has been built. The walls, ceiling, and floor are lined with fiber-glass which absorbs noise and makes the room completely free of echoes. A person is unable to hear an ordinary conversation two feet away unless he directly faces the speaker.

The Navy researchers will use the room to study various problems connected with sound and acoustics. Many of these questions have an important bearing on modern methods of defense.

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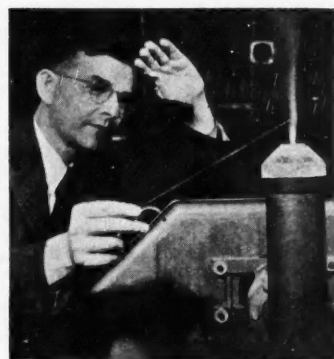
The National Audubon Society states that the whooping crane—the world's tallest bird—is gaining in its race against extinction. Four young birds spotted in Texas this winter bring the whooping crane population of the United States to 36.

In 1942, there were only 22 of the big white birds left, and strong measures were taken to protect them. They have been carefully guarded in their wintering grounds, and hunters have been warned against shooting them.

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The Department of Agriculture is making a study of the fresh-water tidal marshlands along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Florida.

Although these areas are from 10 to 20 miles wide and are known to be extremely fertile, they cannot now be used because of the excess water which floods them. The government plans to use a system of canals, dikes, ditches, tidegates, and pumps to control the water. It is thought that once the land is reclaimed, it can be used for growing a wide variety of vegetables.



SO, SO, HOT. This electronic torch can melt firebricks and even tungsten, which melts only at temperatures of over 3370 degrees centigrade. A General Electric research scientist developed the torch.

Atomic energy has gone to work in American industry, an expert states. The atoms being used are known as radioisotopes, and although most people know of their importance in medical research, physics, and chemistry, their use in industry has not been publicized.

The "tagged atoms" are being employed to detect oil-bearing strata as geologists search for oil wells. In mills they are being used to do away with static. The radioisotopes can also detect flaws in metals and can determine the amount of liquid left in a storage tank.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



AID FOR THE NAVAJO INDIANS. The nurse takes the pulse of this patient, who awaits the doctor at Sage Memorial Hospital, on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. This is one of the few modern facilities available for the Indians (see note below).

Fact and Opinion from . . .

Newspapers and Magazines

(The views expressed in this column are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Schenectady Educates for Effective Citizenship," by Jessie T. Zoller, *The Education Digest*, January 1950, page 13.

The citizens of Schenectady, New York, are taking an active interest in the operation of their schools. Over a thousand people have worked together on committees to study the community's education needs. As a result, the city is doing a good job of training its young people for citizenship, and it is also carrying on an active program of adult education.

Through their student councils, high school pupils take on numerous responsibilities. They operate information centers, for instance. And a group of ninth-grade social studies classes recently set up a council (patterned after the United Nations Security Council) to discuss world peace.

"New Hope for the Sightless," by Helen Keller, *The Rotarian*, January 1950, page 14.

There are 14 million totally or partially blind people on the globe, thousands of whom were blinded in World War II. The great majority live in the far Orient and the Near East.

The blind in Europe and many parts of Asia underwent severe hardship during the war. Their hard-won schools, Braille libraries, and workshops were destroyed. The agencies that formerly helped to obtain jobs for those blind people who can read raised Braille print and who have work to do.

Blind people, in general, do not want "to be cared for." They want the opportunity to be useful citizens. Life is not hopeless and meaningless for those blind people who can read raised Braille print and who have work to do.

"The Visitors From Tokyo," *San Francisco Chronicle*, January 18, 1950, page 20.

As time goes on, we shall be hearing more and more demands that American forces leave Japan. But the United States should announce

that it does not intend to get out of Japan for some time yet.

Fourteen members of the Japanese Diet, recently visiting San Francisco, said that an early withdrawal of American occupation forces would result in the use of violence by Japanese Communists to seize power. Coming from a group which might have been expected to plug for an end of the occupation, this statement is especially thought-provoking.

"How We Scalp the Indians," by Don Eddy, *American*, January 1950, page 36.

The United States now has about 393,000 Indians, and their number is growing. They are receiving shabby treatment in many ways.

As of last July 1, there were exactly 83 physicians and 567 nurses for 393,000 Indians. There was one dentist for each 19,000 Indians, and a grand total of two sanitary engineers for people who need sanitation desperately. There are only 180 schools for 100,000 youngsters scattered over more than 100,000 square miles. Eighty-five per cent of the Navajos cannot read or write and 65 per cent cannot speak English.

The Indians' population has increased as their land holdings have decreased, until now they haven't enough land on which to produce the necessities of life.

"On the Brink of Hope," by Kathryn Close, *The Survey*, December 1949, page 662.

Arthritis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, infantile paralysis, and several forms of heart trouble are mysterious diseases—mysterious in the sense that the main facts about their cause, prevention, and cure are unknown. A sizable effort to overcome these killers is under way. About 120 million dollars per year is now being spent on research in the fields of medicine and health.

Medical study, however, is still a "poor relation" in comparison with other scientific research. The total amount of money and effort used in the fight against disease needs to be increased.

Your Vocabulary

Italicized words below appeared recently in the United Nations World. Match each with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are given on page 5, column 4.

1. They *disseminate* (di-sēm'f-nāt) the information. (a) spread (b) believe (c) forget (d) suppress.
2. A *valid* (vāl'id) statement is (a) hard to understand (b) incorrect (c) simple (d) sound.
3. If someone is the victim of a *fallacy* (fāl'uh-si), he (a) falls over a cliff (b) is struck by a falling object (c) is deceived by a false idea.
4. That was their *ostensible* (ōs-tēn'si-bl) reason. (a) secret (b) worthy but unpopular (c) claimed or declared (d) original.
5. It is *indispensable* (in'dis-pēn'sah-bl) to them. In other words, (a) it is worthless (b) they cannot get along without it (c) they cannot understand it (d) it is too expensive.
6. An *autonomous* (aw-tōn'ō-mūs) region (a) is self-governing (b) can be reached by auto (c) is uninhabited.
7. An old idea or movement is *renascent* (rē-nās'ēnt) if (a) it is dead (b) it is now regarded with scorn (c) its effects are still felt (d) it is becoming vigorous again.

SMILES

Hotel Manager: "Do you want the porter to call you?"
Guest: "No, thanks, I awake every morning at seven."
Hotel Manager: "Well, then, do you mind calling the porter?"

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Garage Mechanic: "What's the matter, lady?"
Mrs. Newdriver: "They say I have a short circuit. Can you lengthen it while I wait?"

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"My wife always flatters me in cold weather," said Fred.
"How's that?"
"Why, whenever the fire burns low, she points to the fireplace and says, 'Fred-erick, the Grate!'"

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Salesman: "I've been trying all week to see you."
Businessman: "Well, make a date with my secretary."
Salesman: "I did, and we had a fine time, but I still want to see you."

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Golfer: "The traps on this course are annoying, aren't they?"
Other Golfer: "Yes, would you mind shutting yours?"

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Wife: "I'm reading a mystery book."
Husband: "Why, that looks like our household budget."
Wife: "It is."



KAUFMAN IN THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE
"I'm ruined!" All my phone numbers are on that wall!"

The Story of the Week

Our Foreign Policy

According to Walter Lippmann, the noted commentator on world affairs, the United States is following the wrong policy in trying to form a world-wide coalition against the Soviet Union. Lippmann says that many countries will, or already have, refused to take sides in the cold war between our nation and Russia. His recommendation is that we now devote our efforts to helping a number of countries to establish an *independent* position in world affairs.

Lippmann argues that the formation of a neutral bloc of nations, siding with neither the United States nor Russia, would greatly lessen the danger of war. Whenever there have



WARTIME PREMIER Churchill of Great Britain is campaigning to try and help his Conservative Party beat the socialists in the general elections late this month

been only two powerful countries or groups of countries, he asserts, a conflict of some kind has always been inevitable.

Among the countries that have already taken a neutral position in the cold war, Lippmann mentions India, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Yugoslavia. The columnist adds that if we could woo away some of the other satellites of the Soviet Union, that country's influence in world affairs would be reduced accordingly.

According to Mr. Lippmann, if one of these neutral nations should be attacked by Russia, then it would be likely that most or all of the others, together with the United States and its allies, would take joint action. He says we should keep impressing Russia with this probability.

White House Cars

How many government cars do you think are used by President Truman, his family, his assistants, and his Secret Service bodyguards? The answer is 36.

Mr. Truman has one car for his own exclusive use—a Packard. The other automobiles are Lincolns, Mercurys, Fords and Cadillacs. There are also two more Packards which are used by the President's family and some of his top assistants.

All the White House cars are kept in good condition by a special crew of expert maintenance men. Whenever one of the vehicles shows signs of hard wear, it is immediately replaced. The only exceptions are two Cadillacs,

which are 12 years old and are still being used by the President's Secret Service bodyguards.

Extend the Draft?

Congress is debating a proposal to extend until June 30, 1953, the present draft law, which was enacted in 1948 and expires this June. Those who support the proposed extension argue that it would show other countries that we were ready to resist aggression and to fulfill our obligations under the North Atlantic Pact. They also argue that the extension would enable the armed forces to induct a large number of men in a relatively short time in the event we became involved in another war.

Those who oppose extending the present draft law assert that there is no need to conscript young men in order to get a sufficient number to serve in the armed forces. They point to the fact that the services have not drafted anyone in many months because enough men have been enlisting voluntarily.

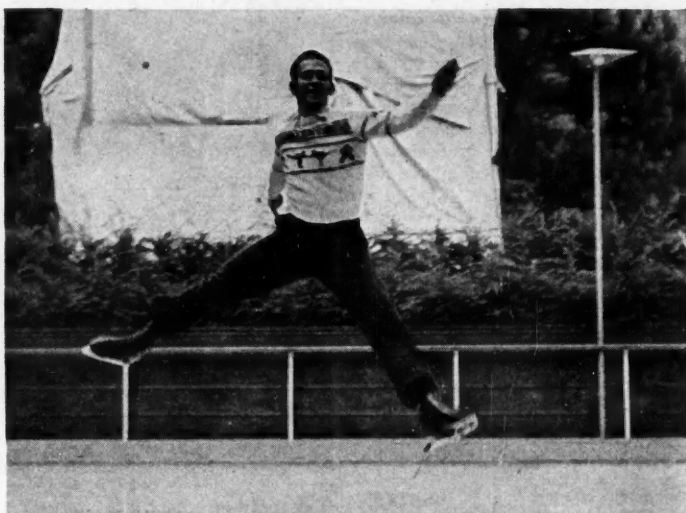
As under the present law, the proposed measure would authorize the defense establishment to call up young men between the ages of 19 and 26 for 21 months' service. At the same time, however, no one would actually be drafted unless Congress or the President declared an emergency. In that event, as many men as were eligible and needed would be drafted.

Top Athletes

Dick Button, the world's top figure skater, will be awarded this month the famous Sullivan Trophy, which is given each year to the most outstanding amateur athlete in the United States.

A native of Englewood, New Jersey, Dick Button has been skating since he was 12 years old. In the past two years, he has won every major figure-skating championship for which he was eligible—the United States, the North American, the Olympic, and the world championships.

Dick is 19 and a sophomore at Harvard. In between classes and homework, he keeps up with his skating



DICK BUTTON, champion skater, is winner of the annual Sullivan award for the outstanding U. S. amateur athlete

and takes part in other sports.

According to an *Associated Press* survey, the country's sports writers have voted Jim Thorpe the greatest football player in America during the first half of this century. The writers chose Thorpe, Harold (Red) Grange, Bronko Nagurski, George Gipp, and Sammy Baugh, in that order.

Jim Thorpe achieved gridiron fame in 1911 and 1912 as a half-back for Carlisle School, an Indian college at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In one game, he received the kickoff and ran for a touchdown. A penalty nullified his run and brought the ball back for another kickoff. Again Thorpe was on the receiving end and broke through the entire opposing team for another touchdown. This one counted.

In 1912, Thorpe achieved further glory as an athlete when he took part in the Olympics at Stockholm, Sweden, and won the decathlon, which consists of 10 field events, and the pentathlon, which consists of five such events. He did not retain the awards for these feats, however. Several years after the 1912 Olympics, it was learned that Thorpe had played professional baseball in a minor league in 1909 and 1910. As a result, the committee running the Olympic games

ruled that Thorpe had disqualified himself as an Olympic contestant and should not have participated in the Stockholm events.

Jesse Owens has been picked in another *Associated Press* poll of sports writers as the greatest track athlete of the last half-century. In 1935, Owens broke five world records and tied a sixth in a single afternoon. The following year, he captured three championship titles at the Olympic games at Berlin and was a member of the U. S. team that won the 400-meter relay.

Argentine Suppression

A special investigating commission appointed by the Argentine Congress is carrying on a campaign to suppress all opposition to President Juan Peron and his policies. In recent months, the commission has ordered more than 50 newspapers to stop publication because of disagreements with Peron's political and economic program. It has told other papers to turn over their newsprint stocks to the government, thus forcing them also to halt publication.

The investigating commission was originally set up to inquire into charges that the Argentine police have been using brutal methods in dealing with the populace. But it has failed to conduct such an inquiry. Instead, it has investigated people who have opposed the Peron regime.

Ever since Peron became president in 1946, the people of Argentina have been losing more and more of their liberties. Some observers believe that Peron plans to establish an outright dictatorship, in which only one party would be allowed and all freedoms would be suppressed.

Microfilming

Beginning next summer, the publishers of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* plan to record each year's issues of the paper on microfilm, which is similar in many ways to motion picture film. High school and college libraries that would like to own microfilm editions of the paper will be able to order them from University Microfilms, of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Microfilming is a process whereby



FOUR JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS who are in Washington for a 60-day study of our State Department

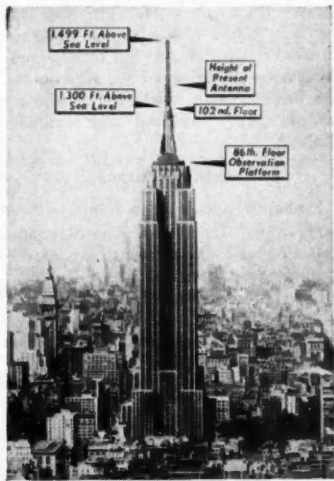
printed matter is reduced—photographically—to a fraction of its original size. The advantage of such a process is twofold. One is that newspapers, books, and documents that are microfilmed can be kept in good condition for an indefinite period of time. The other is that the space taken up by microfilm is minute compared with the space occupied by ordinary printed matter.

The printed material that is recorded on microfilm is read back with the aid of a special machine. This machine, which many libraries own, has a powerful magnifying glass that enlarges the microfilmed copy to a point where it is somewhere near the size of the original document.

Tax Question

A heated controversy is now going on in Congress over President Truman's proposal to increase corporation and other business taxes by one billion dollars. Many lawmakers argue that such an increase would discourage businessmen from expanding their production. Others say that, in view of the large profits made by companies during the last few years, a billion-dollar tax increase would not be too burdensome.

While there is a dispute over Mr. Truman's proposal to raise corporation taxes, there appears to be little opposition to his recommendation that several federal excise taxes be reduced. These taxes were imposed dur-



EMPIRE STATE Building in New York grows taller. This is the artist's idea of how the world's tallest office building will look when the present television antenna will be replaced by a new one soaring 199 feet above the building.

ing the war in order to discourage unnecessary spending of money and to help meet the financial burdens of the government.

An excise tax is a duty levied on the sale or manufacture of a product or service. The particular goods and services on which the excise tax would be reduced under the President's proposal are furs, luggage, handbags, cosmetics and other toilet preparations, jewelry, long-distance telephone calls and telephone messages, railroad passenger service, and railroad freight service.

The excise taxes on furs, luggage, handbags, cosmetics, and jewelry are now 20 per cent of the original retail price. The excise taxes on long-



"TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH" is an excellent movie of the Air Force in wartime

distance telephone calls and telegrams are 25 per cent; on railroad passenger service, 15 per cent; on freight service, three per cent. President Truman has not indicated by how much he thinks these levies should be reduced.

Air Force Picture

Twentieth Century-Fox has made one of the best pictures to come out of Hollywood about the role of the Air Force in winning the last war. The name of the movie is "Twelve O'Clock High." Gregory Peck gives an outstanding performance as an Air Force brigadier general. Other members who turn in excellent jobs are Hugh Marlowe, Gary Merrill, Millard Mitchell, and Dean Jagger.

In Air Force language, "Twelve O'Clock High" means that an enemy plane is directly above one of ours. As the title of the picture, the term dramatizes the savage warfare that took place throughout the conflict between American aviators and those of the Luftwaffe.

As one of the top Air Force leaders overseas, Gregory Peck takes over a bombardment group when its original commander breaks under the strain of battle. Peck thinks that he can succeed where his predecessor has failed. Whether or not he does can be determined by seeing the movie.

Besides its excellent cast, "Twelve O'Clock High" is distinguished by actual shots of air battles in the skies over Germany. The scenes were taken by Air Force and Luftwaffe photographers, who were assigned to make a pictorial record of the air war by their respective commands.

Press Survey

The Associated Press reports that there has been an increase in the censorship of news in the last six months. According to the "AP," there are restrictions on the gathering and sending of news in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Communist China and Russia. One fourth of the world's population, AP officials say, is now unable to get objective information about important events at home or abroad.

Despite the increased censorship of news in many portions of the world, a number of countries still permit a great deal of freedom in reporting

on conditions within their borders. The nations where there is little, if any, news censorship today are France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, most of the members of the British Commonwealth and, of course, the United States.

In Western Germany and Japan, few restrictions are placed on the activities of foreign correspondents. But publications operated by citizens of these countries are subject to certain occupation regulations.

School Drive

CARE, the organization that sends food, clothing and other items to needy people in Europe and Asia, reports that millions still need aid.

As a result of the critical situation among the children in Europe and Asia, CARE is now conducting a special drive for funds in elementary and high schools throughout the United States. Students are being asked to make as large a contribution as possible and, if need be, to forego a dish of ice cream or a movie to do so.

All the money donated by American students is being sent to local CARE offices or to the national headquarters of CARE, 50 Broad Street, New York 5, N. Y. Many schools have set up their own committees to collect students' contributions.

—By DAVID BEILES.



AN INTERNE AGAIN, after 20 years as a doctor in Yugoslavia. Dr. Joseph Bauer, who came to this country 2 1/2 years ago, had to learn English and our hospital techniques before resuming practice. Soon he will take his examinations for a doctor's license in Ohio.

Study Guide

Wire Tapping

1. Discuss briefly the way in which wire tapping can be done.
2. What is the federal law that now applies to wire tapping by unauthorized persons?
3. Why does the FBI sometimes feel it necessary to tap wires of private telephones?
4. For what purposes do some states permit wire tapping?
5. What decision made in 1928 by the U. S. Supreme Court affected the practice?
6. Give arguments made by those who criticize the use of wire tapping even by law enforcement officers.
7. What arguments are made in favor of the present wire-tapping practices?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not favor present practices which permit law-enforcement officers to tap telephone wires? Give reasons.
2. If you think wire tapping is permissible under some circumstances, what limitations do you think should be put on its use? Explain your answer.

Finland

1. What was the outcome of the recent election in Finland?
2. How did Russia put pressure on Finland before the election?
3. Following the voting, what reply did Finland make to Russia's demands?
4. Give two reasons why Finland has managed to remain free.
5. During the years immediately before World War II, what was the basis for Finland's prosperity?
6. Why did Finland join Germany in World War II?
7. What help has Finland received in her effort to rebuild the country after the war?

Discussion

1. Do you think that the United States should give further aid to Finland if that nation requests it? Why or why not?
2. In your opinion, should Finland have joined in the European Recovery Plan and the Atlantic Pact? Explain.

Miscellaneous

1. In what important way, according to Walter Lippmann, should U. S. foreign policy be changed?
2. Give arguments that are used by each side in the controversy over whether the U. S. military draft law should be extended.
3. Who, according to an *Associated Press* survey, is regarded by sports writers as the greatest football player in America during the first half of this century? The greatest track star?
4. What has been happening to Argentine newspapers during the last several months?
5. Describe the tax recommendations President Truman recently made.
6. List some countries, besides the United States, in which there is little—if any—news censorship today.

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (a) spread; 2. (d) sound; 3. (c) is deceived by a false idea; 4. (c) claimed or declared; 5. (b) they cannot get along without it; 6. (a) is self-governing; 7. (d) it is becoming vigorous again.

Pronunciations

- Juho Paasikivi—yoo'ho pah'se-ke-ve
Valentin Gubitchev—val'en-teen' goo'bi-
chev'
Helinski—hel'sing-ke
Pauvo Nurmi—pah'vo noor'me
Maxim Litvinov—mahk-seem' lit-ve'nof

Finnish Stand

(Concluded from page 1)

—and voted a big anti-Communist majority. Again they showed that they would not be "pushed around."

To vote, many Finns had to travel long distances on skis to reach village voting places. In below zero weather, they pushed through deep forests and over frozen lakes. Farmers had barely 5 hours of daylight for travel in the far northern areas. So, to give everyone a chance to vote, 2 days were allowed for the election, January 16 and 17.

The Finnish government waited until after the election to reply to Russia's demand. Then it informed Moscow that (1) Finland recognized the obligation, under a treaty of 1948, to hand over real war criminals; (2) but only 4 on the Russian list of names could be considered suspicious, and these were being investigated.

The reply was by diplomatic note. It did not say "no," bluntly. But the Finns pointed out that they were obligated by international law, as well as by the treaty with Russia. This implied that Finland wishes to continue to protect those who are political refugees, and not real war criminals. This right of protection is recognized, under international law, by all democratic nations of the world.

New Demands Likely

The Finnish note did not necessarily end the dispute. New Russian demands are likely. Undoubtedly there will be further talks between the Russian and Finnish governments. But Finland once again made clear that she has the courage to act as an independent nation.

Why has Finland managed to remain free? Other nations along Russia's frontier have been easy victims. Russia took the little countries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia at the beginning of World War II. After the war, Russia established Communist control of Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland—by force, by arresting opposition leaders, and by controlling elections.

In years past, Finland has had many Communists who were willing to sell out their country. Finland has had Fascists, too, who tried to end free government in prewar years. Yet none of these extremists has managed to win power in the country.

One reason for Finland's success is that a majority of Finns have developed a very western, democratic outlook. In the nearly 30 years of their republic, they have done most of their business with western nations, and they have built their government along western lines. Also, the Finns were under Russian rule for over 100 years. They want no more of it.

A very big reason for their independence is that the Finns have managed to keep their elections free—so that no extremist faction could control the vote, as has happened in so many other countries. In a crisis, the Finns have drawn together to uphold democracy.

Russian military occupation could end Finnish freedom, and this is an ever-present danger. So far, Russia apparently has not thought it wise to set up communism by force in Finland. The fierceness with which the Finns are ready to fight for freedom, and the difficulties an occupation would

bring, may account for Russia's reluctance. A quick glance at history gives a good idea of the Finnish attitude.

Under Russia. Sweden lost Finland to Russia in 1809. For long periods, the Russian czars (emperors) permitted Finland considerable independence. But often there were sudden Russian efforts to establish more complete rule over the Finns, and this always led to trouble.

Once, Russia tried to force the Finns into a special Russian army. Signs were posted ordering the men to regis-

try the Russian experiment. Baron Mannerheim, with his White Guard soldiers and aided by German volunteer troops, defeated the Communists. Finland emerged as a republic in 1919.

For the next 20 years, Finland prospered. Lumber, and wood pulp for making paper, were exported from the country's great wealth of pine, spruce and birch forests. Modern furniture and glassware were becoming important exports in the '30's. Butter, milk, and eggs were sold to other countries also.

Modern apartment buildings were

big powers of the world squared away in World War II, Finland ran into trouble. The southeastern part of Finland, the Karelian Isthmus, reached close to Russia's big city of Leningrad. Russia demanded that territory, to improve her defenses, and also the right to establish military bases along the southern Finnish coast. Finland refused the demands, and was attacked by Russia.

The Russians, expecting easy victory, marched carelessly into Finland. In the far north, one regiment was led by a band! A few Finnish soldiers, hidden in the woods with machine guns, massacred the regiment. The Russians had skis and instruction books, but few actually could ski. Unable to take cover in the snowy woods, without skis, thousands of Russians were killed as they followed the highways on foot, in wagons, and in tanks.

It was, of course, impossible for the army of less than 400,000 Finns to resist the great power of Russia for long. But they made a brave fight for 105 days. The Russians won, only after they had brought in their best troops and laid down one of the heaviest artillery barrages ever used in any war.

Finland was forced, by the peace treaty, to give up 10 per cent of her area, including the industrial city of Viipuri, and a great deal of machinery. But the country did not fall to communism.

War again. It will be argued for a long time whether Finland was right in joining Germany to make war against Russia in 1941. The step led her into conflict with Great Britain, an old friend. It also led to strained relations with us, after we became allies with Russia against the Nazis, but we never declared war against Finland.

Finland's Reasons

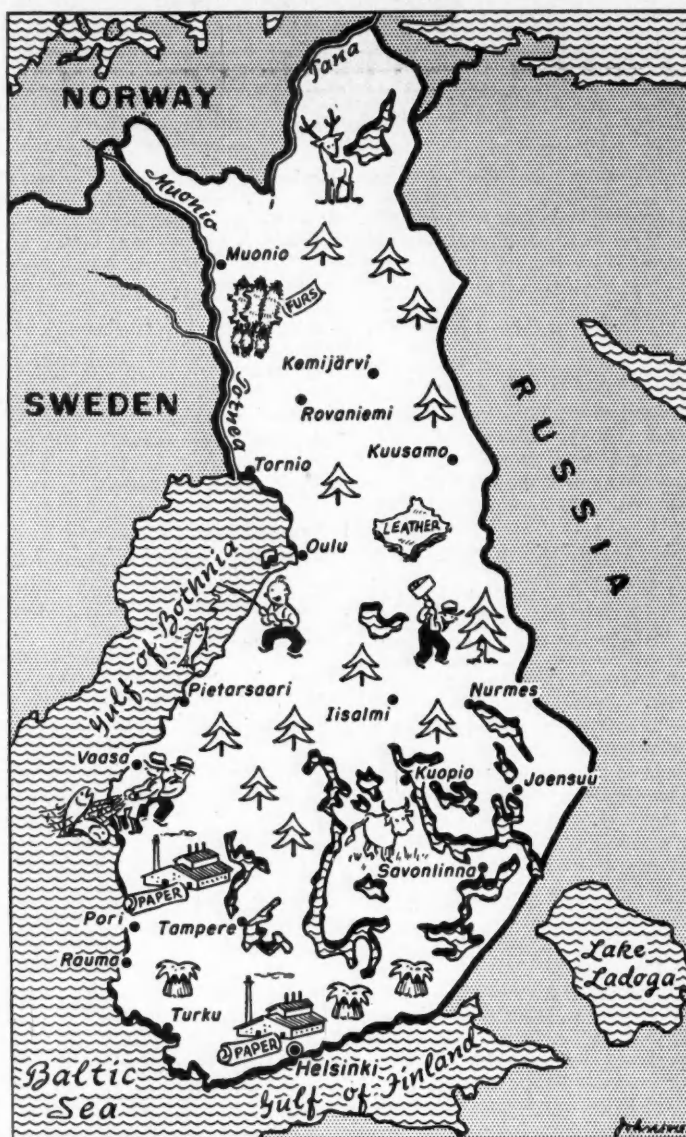
Finland's reasons for joining Germany were: There was some German pressure, and the Germans appeared to many people to be winning the war at that time. There were a number of pro-German Finns. But, most of all, the majority of Finns hated the Russian Communists, and they wanted, by whatever means, to get back the land they had lost.

The result was a disastrous defeat. Finland did not regain her land. She was required to send Russia 225 million dollars' worth of locomotives, ships, machinery, fabricated houses and other goods by 1952. And she had to yield Porkkala peninsula, within artillery range of Helsinki, the Finnish capital, for use as a Russian military base.

The future. The Finns received 127 million dollars in postwar loans from us, and also a 12½-million-dollar loan from the World Bank of the United Nations, to help rebuild their country. The loans were a recognition that the nation has a good chance of remaining independent and stable.

In all dealings with Russia, Finland has tried to be most correct—but not to give up independence. The Finns have kept up their payments in goods to Russia. They stayed out of the European Recovery Plan and the Atlantic Defense, so as not to anger Russia.

How Finland makes out, then, depends very much on what Russia does. Alone in the far north, the Finns are walking a tight rope, in a brave and determined effort to keep their freedom.



FINLAND often refers to itself as Europe's northern outpost of democracy

ter for service. But, on registration day, the Finns took to their skis and disappeared into the forests. The Russians eventually gave up the registration idea.

Some Finns did serve in the Russian army, but they rejected the idea of forced service.

The Finns had been semi-independent under Sweden for 650 years, and they had developed good schools, a high educational standard, and a cultural understanding of the western world in that period. These things they fought to keep all during the years under Russian rule.

Independence. When the czars were overthrown and the Communists took over Russia, in the revolution of 1917, the Finns declared independence. A civil war started, however, since many Communists in Finland also wanted to

put up for workers under a social welfare program. Helsinki, the capital, built a 14-story skyscraper hotel for tourists. There was a new post office. Helsinki's big department store was probably the first in the world to display and sell automobiles as a regular item along with women's dresses, fountain pens, shoes and baby carriages.

The United States took great interest in Finland, and lent her money. It was repaid promptly, and this won our admiration when larger countries were unable to pay their debts. Paavo Nurmi, the famous long-distance runner, appeared in our country in the 1930's, and made new friends for Finland. The music of Jan Sibelius, now 84, won the favor of the American public—and of the whole world.

War with Russia, 1939. As the

Asiatic Students Visit the South

First Part of Trip Takes Them to Nashville and Memphis, Then on to Dallas

Mrs. Helen Hiatt Waller, Director of the New York Herald Tribune Forum for High Schools, has been accompanying the student delegates to the Forum on a tour arranged by the Civil Air Patrol. The delegates, representing 16 countries of the Middle East and Southeast Asia, were in Dallas, Texas, when Mrs. Waller wrote the account which follows.

THE party left Mitchel Field, Long Island, on two U. S. Air Force C-47's. Besides the 25 delegates from the Middle East and Southeast Asia, the group included representatives of the State Department and Miss Harriet Hirsch, president of the New York City student government.

Once aboard, the foreign delegates, who had arrived in this country during the Christmas holidays, began getting acquainted for the first time. Each had been living as a guest in the home of a high school student in the New York suburban area.

I gave out notebook diaries so that the students could keep a record of their trip impressions. Very soon they began to share impressions and compare notes. This wasn't so easy, for although they all speak excellent English, they had taken notes in their own languages. These included Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Sinhalese, Burmese, and Siamese. Too, some students had written their notes from left to right, while others, following their native customs, had written from right to left.

A boy from Burma who had been



HELEN HIATT WALLER

lucky enough to see "South Pacific" brought a mouth organ from his pocket and taught his traveling companions the words to "Some Enchanted Evening."

The two planes dipped down into Nashville for the visitors to have lunch as guests of the Tennessee Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Later in the afternoon, en route from Nashville to Dallas, one of the planes developed engine trouble and put down in Memphis for the night. The "grounded" students stood on the Mississippi levee and considered whether the river was as big, as broad, or as beautiful as the Ganges or the Nile.

The next afternoon the Memphis



HONG KONG'S WATER FRONT is a busy place the year around

Is Hong Kong Safe?

Chinese Communists Have By-Passed British Colony in Their Sweep to South. Will They Take It in the Future?

ON the South China coast, just 90 miles down the river from the city of Canton, is a 390-square-mile region that the advancing Communist armies have by-passed. It is the British colony of Hong Kong, one of the great seaports of the world.

While it may seem strange that the Communists should pass up such a prize, there are many reasons why they did so. In the first place, Hong Kong is well defended. At present there are more than 30,000 crack troops stationed there, together with some British naval units and several squadrons of Royal Air Force Spitfires. The Communists, of course, greatly outnumber these forces, but Hong Kong's defenses are strong.

Furthermore, Hong Kong has been a British colony since 1841. Britain has recognized the Communist regime, and it is not likely that the Chinese would want to antagonize the British now. And should the area be attacked, there is a good chance the United Nations would step into the picture. This would be a blow to the Communists, who have tried to get the UN seats held by the Chinese Nationalists.

But perhaps the most important reason the Communists have not tried to seize Hong Kong is that they already freely receive shipments through its port. There would be no advantage in taking the colony now.

However, Communist propaganda leaflets—published before Britain's recognition—openly stated that the aim was to drive the British out of Hong Kong eventually. Some observers believe the Communists may try to do this by causing riots, strikes,

luggards finally caught up, and the entire group was together at dinner in the Melrose Hotel as guests of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. Previously the first plane load had toured the plant of the Dallas News and had enjoyed tea at the Nieman-Marcus department store.

After their stay in Dallas, the young people were to visit the Tennessee Valley Authority and then fly on to Washington, D. C. On both these latter trips they were to be guests of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. Interviews with the students will be published later.

and other internal disturbances. But, for the time being, Communists in Hong Kong are not causing trouble.

Meanwhile, the colony is a haven for refugees from all over the Orient. Thousands of Chinese and others have poured into Hong Kong. The population, which normally is about 1½ million, has swollen to over 2 million. The majority of Hong Kong's inhabitants are Chinese, but there also are several thousand British, Americans, Indians, Portuguese, and others.

Most of the big business of the colony—shipping, insurance, and banking—is in the hands of the British and a few wealthy Chinese. The great masses of Chinese work as shopkeepers or as laborers or in the colony's few industries—sugar refineries, tobacco factories, and shipyards.

The colony gets its name from the island of Hong Kong, but the boundaries of the British-owned territory include a piece of the Chinese mainland and other islands. The land is rugged and mountainous, but the climate of the colony is fairly pleasant.

Most of the population lives in the cities of Kowloon and Victoria, which face each other across the harbor. Kowloon, on the mainland, is where the great docks are located.

There has been a serious housing shortage in Hong Kong since the war, and it has become more acute in recent months. In parts of Victoria there are as many as 3,000 persons to an acre of land (about half a city block). Europeans and wealthy Chinese live along the hillsides, away from the congested areas of the city.

—By AMALIE ALVEY.



A BRITISH COLONY on China's coast

Monthly Test

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER dated January 9, 16, 23, and 30. The answer key appears in the February 6th issue of THE CIVIC LEADER. Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS: In each of the following items, select the correct answer and place its letter on your answer sheet.

1. The United States has recently taken the position that (a) Spain should be removed from United Nations membership; (b) normal diplomatic relations between Spain and other nations should be resumed; (c) Spain and the United States should enter into a close military alliance; (d) the growth of Spanish influence in Latin America must be curbed.

2. The largest item in President Truman's budget is (a) aid to foreign nations; (b) interest on the national debt; (c) national defense; (d) benefits to veterans.

3. Experts on Asiatic affairs advise us that the Oriental peoples (a) dislike being dominated by foreigners; (b) will cooperate wholeheartedly with the Communist government of Mao Tse-tung; (c) want to be governed by western democracies, such as Britain, France, and the United States; (d) do not want any economic help from the United States.

4. A long-range problem troubling the U. S. coal industry is (a) the increasing use of coal as a fuel; (b) trouble over the 3-day work week; (c) overproduction; (d) limited coal resources.

5. The Hoover Commission submitted more than 300 recommendations for improving the efficiency of the federal executive branch of government. To date (a) nothing has been done about these recommendations; (b) only two items have received the attention of Congress; (c) almost all of the recommendations have been adopted; (d) a fair start has been made, but much remains to be done.

6. President Truman believes we should help the underdeveloped nations of the world by (a) sponsoring their membership in the United Nations; (b) giving their governments military protection; (c) making available to them the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress; (d) supervising the handling of their foreign affairs.

7. The main goal of health insurance or group medical plans is to (a) increase the number of doctors; (b) provide struggling doctors in rural areas with more patients; (c) construct five times the present number of medical schools and hospitals; (d) have families set aside money regularly for their medical expenses.

8. The chief source of livelihood of Australians and New Zealanders is (a) manufacturing; (b) agriculture; (c) mining; (d) lumbering.

9. The winning political parties in both the Australian and New Zealand elections have promised to (a) encourage free enterprise; (b) increase governmental controls over business; (c) reduce social security program benefits; (d) nationalize all basic industries.

10. The biggest source of funds for the federal government is taxes on (a) corporations; (b) luxury goods; (c) goods made in other countries; (d) incomes earned by individuals.

11. On the matter of Far Eastern policy, the Truman administration has decided that (a) Mao Tse-tung does not represent a threat to democracy in Asia; (b) it would be unwise at this time to use U. S. forces in support of the Chinese Nationalists; (c) no steps should be taken to stop the spread of communism in Asia; (d) only the United Nations should control the future of Asia.

12. Opposition to the reforms proposed by the Hoover Commission comes chiefly from (a) President Truman; (b) the Republican Party; (c) the Democratic Party (d) government officials and workers whose jobs are likely to be affected.

13. President Truman estimates that the government's income for the next fiscal year will (a) be about equal to expenditures; (b) be less than expendi-

(Continued on next page)

Monthly Test

(Continued from page 7)

tures by about 5 billion dollars; (c) exceed expenditures by about 5 billion dollars; (d) be less than expenditures by about 15 billion dollars.

14. President Truman and the American Medical Association agree upon which one of the following proposals to improve the nation's health? (a) Government assistance to the nation's medical schools, hospitals, and research centers; (b) a compulsory health insurance system; (c) licensing of all doctors by the federal government only; (d) a government-owned hospital for every county in the United States.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the question.

15. The recent balloting in Australia and New Zealand attracted widespread attention in _____, where a general election will be held on February 23.

16. The island of _____ is the last stronghold of the Chinese Nationalist government and the followers of Chiang Kai-shek.

17. Mao Tse-tung's government is seeking to gain China's seats in the _____

18. Spain has suffered economically because she has been ineligible to receive aid under the _____

19. The job of making final decisions on the costs of running the federal government is up to _____

20. The chief source of fuel and power in the United States is _____

21. The foreign ministers of 8 nations in the British Commonwealth met in Ceylon recently to plan a fight against _____

22. The American Medical Association favors _____ health insurance plans.

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

- 23. Robert Menzies
- 24. Herbert Hoover
- 25. Francisco Franco
- 26. Louis Johnson
- 27. John L. Lewis

- A. Ruler of Spain.
- B. Secretary of the Interior.
- C. Prime Minister of Australia.
- D. Secretary of Defense.
- E. Head of government reorganization commission.
- F. Head of United Mine Workers' Union.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that most closely defines the word in italics.

28. Such *concepts* form the basis of that country's policy. (a) ideas; (b) agreements; (c) false notions; (d) definite facts.

29. If a person is known for his *integrity*, he is (a) unintelligent; (b) a good athlete; (c) honest; (d) a skilled mathematician.

30. An *eminent* doctor is (a) extremely busy; (b) mediocre; (c) distinguished; (d) inexperienced.

31. He has a great deal of *fortitude*. (a) money; (b) trouble; (c) ability; (d) courage.

32. They tried to *discern* the reason. (a) conceal; (b) detect; (c) explain; (d) remember.

33. If two ideas are *compatible*, they are (a) equally bad; (b) in harmony with each other; (c) in conflict; (d) equally good.

Careers for Tomorrow - - - A Research Field

YOUNG men and women who like history often wonder how they can use their interest vocationally. The prospect of becoming a famed writer in the field seems remote. What, then, are some of the lesser goals?

Writing and teaching are the two outstanding fields in which a knowledge of history is important, but new positions are coming to the fore.

There are numerous opportunities in the various fields of writing for people who know history. Many positions as reporters and editors on daily newspapers require such knowledge. Magazines often employ historians as staff writers and they accept free lance articles with historical emphasis.

Historians also write books—texts for school use, popularized versions of historical events, or books based on original research into some aspect of history. Usually people who write books or free lance articles must have regular jobs to support themselves while they build their reputations as independent writers.

A new field, known as business history, is opening up for persons with historical training. A number of the large corporations have come to believe that records of their growth are important. These corporations employ two kinds of historians. One group concentrates on collecting, classifying, and indexing company documents that may have historical significance.

The other group studies the material and writes articles, reports, or books based on it. Knowledge of economics and accounting is important for this kind of work.

Private collections of papers—such as the Franklin D. Roosevelt collection at Hyde Park, New York, are



handled by trained historians. Some of them sort, classify, and index the papers. Others write articles and books after they have made a thorough study of some part of the collection.

Historical work in the federal government is increasing. The Army now has a large staff studying material collected during World War II. Other departments—Agriculture, State, and Interior, among them—

are turning more and more to historians who can sift and analyze material relating to their fields.

Outside the federal government there is no standard scale of salaries for persons in historical work. Federal salaries range from \$3,000 to \$7,200 a year. Elsewhere, a person may earn \$2,000 a year in teaching, \$10,000 a year in the field of business history.

To succeed in any branch of historical work, young men and women must have a broad grasp of events, past and present. They must be thorough and painstaking, and they must have imagination. They should also be able to write well and to look behind superficial facts to see underlying causes and relationships.

Prospective historians, unless they have some unusual background, should go to college. With a bachelor's degree received at the end of the regular four-year college course, or with a master's, which requires a year's additional study, they can teach or qualify for beginning research positions. The top jobs, though, usually require a Ph.D.

A booklet discussing the work of historians and that in similar fields can be secured from: Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. In ordering the booklet ask for Pamphlet No. 7, Description of Professional Series (L-7.31:7) and enclose 10 cents in coin.

Historical Backgrounds - - - U. S. and Russia

LOOKING back to November 17, 1933, some Americans wonder whether or not the United States made a mistake when it recognized the Communist government of Soviet Russia. On that day diplomatic relations between the two countries were resumed after a 16-year break.

For more than a century after our republic was founded, Russia and the United States were friends. They were not closely associated, but throughout the period each aided the other when help was badly needed. Russia, for instance, used its influence in our favor on occasions when difficulties arose between the U. S. and Great Britain. Late in the century, the American people helped Russia by sending huge amounts of food to relieve a famine in that land.

About 1890, however, long before the Communists came to power, the spirit of friendliness began to disappear. Our country became alarmed over two developments that have a surprisingly familiar ring. First, the czars who ruled Russia began an aggressive program in relation to neighboring areas, particularly in Asia. Second, the Russian government became more and more tyrannical in its treatment of minority groups at home.

U. S. feeling about these developments was modified somewhat during World War I. Russia entered the war against Germany in August 1914 and helped the Allied cause for the next two years. But in March 1917, the first of the Russian revolutions took the country out of the fighting and put Alexander Kerensky into power.

The United States, thinking the overthrow of the czars had brought democracy to Russia, made every effort to support the new regime. But

the second revolution, which took place in November 1917, ended Kerensky's power and put the Communists in control of the country. Then began the 16 years of non-recognition.

Our government opposed the Communists for a number of reasons. First, it objected to the propaganda carried on by the Soviet Communists to foster revolutions in other countries. Second, it pointed to evidence that the Communists could not be depended on to keep their promises. American officials also objected to the way in which the Soviet government took the property of private citizens, and its action in depriving them of political rights.

By 1933, a majority of the people in the United States believed the time had come for us to resume diplomatic relations with Russia. We still did not approve Communist tactics, but



CORDELL HULL (right), then Secretary of State, greeting Maxim Litvinov when he arrived in Washington for talks on Russian recognition in 1933

we felt the Soviet government was firmly entrenched. We also were anxious to be able to trade with Russia.

The depression had a great deal to do with our desire to reopen commerce with that nation. Some exchange of goods had taken place during the 16 years when we did not recognize the Communists, but extensive trade had been impossible. Business leaders and government officials alike felt that increased commerce between the two countries might stimulate recovery.

Consequently, on November 17, 1933, after a series of talks with Russia's leading foreign officer of the day, Maxim Litvinov, President Franklin Roosevelt announced U. S. recognition of the Russian regime.

During the next few years, and particularly during World War II, our country again was sympathetic and friendly with the Soviet Union. In the years since the war, though, these feelings have changed as Russia has intensified its aggressive activities, as it has gone back on promises, and as it has become increasingly hostile toward us.

In view of these facts, was recognition in 1933 a mistake? Some observers say it was not. Recognition would have had to come during the war anyway, they argue, and our conduct has put us on record as trying to do all we can to get along with Russia. Other observers feel that recognition was a mistake. They think the Russian people might have overthrown the Communists had the U. S. not recognized their government.

The answer to the question is important as the U. S. considers the problem of recognizing the Communist government in China.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.